

money we did. And I can recall being here on the floor and having Democratic friends beating us up, rightfully so, because in 2006 we spent \$160 billion more than we had coming in. We didn't have to do that. We shouldn't have done that.

I would never have dreamed that 5 short years later that with the Democratic majority the spending would have exploded once they had no friction between a Democratic President and a Democratic Congress, and that we would go from the \$160 billion in deficit spending in 2006 that Republicans got beat up for to \$1.6 trillion in deficit spending—10 times more—and people still thinking that's somehow okay.

It wasn't okay for Republicans to overspend by \$160 billion, and it's not okay for this Democratic Senate and President to continue to push to spend \$1.6 trillion more than the \$2.2 trillion we supposedly will have coming in.

Now we're told today we're going to have a vote on a Republican bill. A little surprising to some of us Republicans. We passed a bill, Cut, Cap, and Balance. It wasn't what I wanted. I liked the balanced budget amendment with a percentage of GDP cap on spending to help rein Congress in, and that was negotiable on the percentage. But it also had \$111 billion out of \$1.6 trillion that would have been cut from spending. That just wasn't enough. But the balanced budget amendment, if it had been passed and become part of the law, was enough of a game changer it was worth voting for.

Then the Senate sits back and says, We're not going to go for that. We're not going to pass anything, so pass something else. And now our leadership has heard the call of Leader REID down the hall and is going to bring another bill.

And I know the intentions of both sides of the aisle want the best for the country. I get that. I understand that. We have different ideas on how that can be done. And I know that there are people in my party that want to keep beating up on me because I can't vote for a bill that only cuts \$1 trillion out of \$15 trillion to \$16 trillion that will be deficit spending over the next 10 years. Because it's easy to do the math: We cut \$1 trillion out of \$15 trillion, \$16 trillion over the next 10 years, and if we can keep doing that, and there are no assurances we can, every 10 years cut another trillion, then when I have my 207th birthday, we can celebrate that year a balanced budget, and we will have only added \$120 trillion to the \$14.3 trillion deficit now. I can't vote for that.

Politically we're told, this is the political thing to do. You've got to do the political thing. If you don't vote for the Boehner bill, you're voting for Obama. That's not true. If the Senate will pass anything—anything—then we could drive this to a conference committee and get a compromise. The Senate has to pass something.

Well, think about this scenario very quickly: We pass this, say, hypothetically. The Senate says, Oh, well, you pushed us to the edge of the cliff; we didn't want to vote for this. Then they pass it just like we did, and the President says, I was going to veto but we're on the edge of the cliff. A 100 percent Republican bill; they wouldn't compromise. And now they say, Well, gee, Republicans inherited the economy.

It's not right practically; it's not right politically. Let's do the right thing for America.

THE SOMALIA CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the Horn of Africa is currently suffering from the worst drought in 60 years, one of the worst humanitarian crises in recent memory. For both moral and national security reasons, it demands a strong, clear, sustained response from this institution.

Last week, famine was declared in parts of southern Somalia. This means acute malnutrition rates among children now exceed 30 percent, that more than two people per 10,000 die every day, and that people are not able to access food or other basic necessities.

□ 1120

One out of every five households in famine-declared areas have no food at all. The malnutrition rates in Somalia are currently the highest in the world. In the last few months, tens of thousands of Somalis, the majority of them children, have died as a result of causes related to malnutrition. In some of the most affected areas, an estimated 310,000 children are acutely malnourished.

The worst may be yet to come. Eight million people are in need of assistance in Ethiopia and Kenya. Unless the global community and humanitarian agencies intervene now, it's predicted that the entire south of Somalia will face famine within the next 2 months.

Nearly a thousand people are arriving daily at overcrowded refugee camps in Kenya and Ethiopia. Many have journeyed for weeks to get there. According to Josette Sheeran, executive director of the U.N. World Food Program, the roads to these camps "are becoming roads of death. Over half the women I talked to had to leave children to die or had children die. In the Horn of Africa, we could lose a generation." And the troubles do not end there. Sexual violence against women in these already overcrowded refugee camps is on the rise.

This crisis didn't happen overnight. The eastern Horn of Africa is prone to chronic food insecurity. What is more, below-average rainfall in late 2010 and the spring of 2011 anticipated drought conditions, which have been dramati-

cally worsened by the fact Somalia has not had a central government since 1991. Drought conditions have also progressively worsened throughout the year in Ethiopia and Kenya.

To address the ongoing crisis, Secretary Clinton recently announced that the United States would provide another \$28 million in aid for people in Somalia and for Somali refugees in Kenya, in addition to the over \$431 million in food and nonfood emergency assistance already provided for the region this year.

It's a good start. But we need to ensure that the appropriate U.S. funds are available to address this crisis this year and that Congress provides enough funding to maintain our ability to really address these crises. It is a matter of life and death for the most vulnerable people in the world.

We do this not just out of moral responsibility, although that should be compelling enough. It is also because our national security interests need to be represented to maintain the capability to combat food insecurity in the Horn of Africa and other critical regions around the world. It's about our national security. Anti-hunger programs can help this crisis and strengthen international diplomacy. Yet, unfortunately, we have seen the money for international food aid cut back severely. When we fight hunger and poverty, we undercut the recruiting base of those who would threaten us—the terrorists who would threaten us.

Let me conclude by saying we know what we can do to help. We have the ability to alleviate hunger and suffering of millions in the Horn of Africa. We know that doing so is the right thing to do. It makes us safer in the long run. We lack the political will to do the right thing. I urge my colleagues, support funding for these critical programs in the coming budget for the millions of suffering in Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia, for the humanitarian crisis of the future, for the continued safety and the security of the United States.

BROWN CHAPEL A.M.E. CHURCH 145TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SEWELL. I rise today to recognize the 145th anniversary of Brown Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Selma, Alabama. For 145 years, Brown Chapel has been a pillar in the Selma community, and she stands today as a powerful symbol of the civil rights movement for the major role that this church played in the events that led to the adoption of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

One hundred forty-five years ago, just 2 years after the Emancipation Proclamation, freed slaves began worshipping, first in private homes, and

eventually in the basement of the Hotel Albert in Selma, Alabama. One hundred forty-five years ago, on August 31, 1867, an African Methodist Episcopal missionary, Brother John Turner, addressed the group assembled in the basement of the Hotel Albert and extended them an invitation to unite with the African Methodist Episcopal connection.

Two years later, in 1869, these visionary church members bought a plot of land on Sylvan Street, now known as Martin Luther King Street. This beautiful edifice of Brown Chapel that stands today, with its imposing twin towers and Romanesque revival styling, was built in 1908 by a black builder, Mr. A.J. Farley. Today, we celebrate 145 years of Brown Chapel—a history of faith, courage, and leadership.

It took great courage in the early 1960s to defy an injunction that forbade all churches in Selma, Alabama, from holding mass meetings. Most churches in Selma refused to disobey the court order, but Brown Chapel opened its doors to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and became that wonderful church of courage that played such an integral role in the civil rights movement. Brown Chapel became an icon of the movement.

It was from Brown Chapel that they marched on Bloody Sunday, 2 days later on Turnaround Tuesday, and on March 21, 1965, the day when the Selma to Montgomery march was finally completed. Leading the infamous Bloody Sunday was Hosea Williams, as well as our esteemed colleague in this Chamber, Congressman JOHN LEWIS of Georgia.

The story of Bloody Sunday will go down in the annals of history as a pivotal event in the civil rights movement. On March 7, 1965, at the Edmund Pettus Bridge, six blocks from Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church, mounted troops confronted the marchers on that bridge. Sheriff Jim Clark and his posse charged the marchers with tear gas and with billy clubs. That night, ABC News interrupted regularly scheduled programs to air footage of Bloody Sunday. By morning, news of the event had spread to nearly every American household, and thousands of supporters began to walk to Selma. The Selma to Montgomery march and the subsequent outrage led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

For 145 years, Brown Chapel has been a powerful agent of change. It has been a place where socioeconomic and racial barriers have been challenged, a place where barriers that divide our Nation have been broken down.

Brown Chapel continues to make history. On March 4, 2007, then-Senator Barack Obama, a Presidential candidate, gave the address for the annual Bridge Crossing Commemoration. It was during this address in 2007 that Barack Obama thanked the “Moses Generation” and challenged the “Joshua Generation.” In his famous “Joshua Generation” speech, Obama asked what

the present generation would do to fulfill the legacy, the obligations, and the debts that we owe to the people before them.

As a proud member of Brown Chapel Church, I had the privilege of being there that day. And for me, his words were a call to action. It was because people prayed in Brown Chapel and people marched on the Edmund Pettus Bridge that a little black girl from Selma, Alabama, could dream and could one day stand here in this wonderful Chamber as the first black Congresswoman from the State of Alabama.

Brown Chapel has been a pillar in my hometown of Selma, Alabama; and it still remains so today. I am a proud member of this church and have been for the last 30 years of my life. I was raised in this beautiful historic church, and I know its significance. I am now proud to represent the Seventh Congressional District of Alabama and proud of the many giants on whose shoulders I stand.

In honor of the 145th anniversary of the historic Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church, I, TERRI A. SEWELL, Representative to the United States Congress from the Seventh District of Alabama, do hereby recognize Brown Chapel for its numerous contributions to the city of Selma, the State of Alabama, and this Nation. I ask those present today to join me in celebrating 145 years of historic Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church.

□ 1130

CREDIT DEFAULT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the Republican majority has once again proven its complete irresponsibility by putting our economy at risk in handling our Nation's finances. A little over a decade ago, there were projected surpluses as far as the eye could see. The Nation had achieved a firm financial footing. That was before the George Bush administration and the Republicans took us on a spending spree, paying out trillions in huge tax cuts, skewed to—guess who?—the top 2 percent, the wealthy, whose investment decision then killed jobs in our country. The last month that George Bush was in office, we lost over 700,000 jobs just in that month. The Bush Administration plunged the Nation during that decade into two wars they refused to pay for.

History tells the story.

Then came the big economic collapse of 2008 during the Bush Administration that included a loss in Federal revenues, which followed the largest economic downturn since the Great Depression, due to George Bush's capitulation to Wall Street abuse. Now, Republicans claim to care about the Federal deficit?

Well, yes, revenues have shrunk by about \$400 billion a year because of the

financial crisis they created we're trying to dig ourselves out of. Spread out over 10 years, that covers the, roughly, \$4 trillion we're trying to eke out of this sick economy to pay down our debt. But it's a very delicate balance we're attempting because there are 14 million Americans out of work and up to 24 million who are working part time, who want to work full time, or others who have completely given up and dropped out. We can't hurt them more.

Fewer jobs mean lower revenues at all levels. It means lower profits to many companies, and it certainly means lower revenues into the Federal Treasury because there are more people who are on unemployment; more people who rely on government assistance, more people who rely on public health because their private insurance has dried up. How many people now can't afford to pay their COBRA? Millions who are not earning paychecks are not able to pay their contributions to Social Security and Medicare. So it's a vicious cycle.

In any time of economic downturn, national economic policy must act like a fulcrum on a teeter-totter. It has to level impacts on people so they can reposition. The government has to at the Federal level help prop up the American people until they can find their footing again. It doesn't take a mental giant to figure that out. Unemployment is the major cause of the deficit that we are bearing now; yet we hear almost no discussion about jobs and how to create jobs, to get rid of unemployment, as the reemployed and lift the economy—healing the Republic. Rather than talking about how to create jobs and how unemployment causes lost revenues and kills more jobs, all we're hearing is take more flesh off the bones of families and communities. House Republicans have placed the entire economy at risk now to satisfy the ideological wishes of a few.

The American public sees what's happening. Importantly, they're feeling directly what is not happening. Nobody is being fooled. I've heard from thousands of people back home in northern Ohio who are concerned that the Republican leadership is playing politics—playing with fire—during a time when our economic recovery is very, very fragile. Putting our Nation's credit rating at risk is totally irresponsible and will cause more economic harm. I had somebody tell me yesterday he's trying to renegotiate his home loan, and the mortgage company wanted to raise the interest rate a quarter percent because of the market uncertainty all of this is causing.

Since World War I, our country has always received a AAA status from credit rating agencies because, until now, we have always put the Nation first—not any political party first, but the Nation first. To force America to default for the first time in history would hurt our Republic and every working family, and it would hurt